

March 18, 2010

James F. Spallone  
Assistant Majority Leader  
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I would like to express my strong support for the proposed property exchange with Riverhouse Properties and the Goodspeed Opera House. The properties being offered to the State would be valuable and useful acquisitions for the Department of Environmental Protection, and in return the land the State would be giving up is ideal for stimulating economic development in the Haddam-East Haddam area.

The owners of the Riverhouse have already proven they will produce a high quality product with the development of their beautiful facility, while at the same time they have increased property tax revenues from their property by 600% and created more than 50 full and part time jobs. The DEP land has long been targeted by the Town of Haddam for tourism-related economic development, and this is a chance to get this property back on the tax rolls and producing revenue and new jobs, while helping to reinforce the lower Connecticut River Valley as a destination for tourism. The potential development here incorporating a new theater, a hotel, new commercial space, the Valley Railroad, Lady Katherine Cruises and Riverquest Cruises, would have positive regional impact and give a needed boost to existing businesses in Haddam and East Haddam.

Very truly,

Larry McHugh  
President

